

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing apolipoprotein-B levels in the vascular system without reducing LDL-cholesterol levels in an individual in need thereof ~~treating hyperlipidemia~~ comprising administering azithromycin ~~an anti-microbial agent~~ and acetylsalicylic acid ~~a metal-chelator~~ to ~~[[an]]~~ the individual, wherein the individual has hyperlipidemia in need thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein the total level of cholesterol is reduced in the vascular system of the individual.

Claim 14. (Canceled)

Claim 15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Canceled)

Claim 19. (Canceled)

Claim 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim according to claim 12 wherein azithromycin ~~anti-microbial agent~~ and the acetylsalicylic acid ~~metal-chelator~~ are administered simultaneously.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein ~~azithromycin~~~~anti-microbial agent~~ and the ~~acetylsalicylic acid~~ ~~metal-chelator~~ are administered sequentially.

Claims 23-26. (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Canceled)

Claim 28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein the individual does not have an atherosclerotic condition.

Claim 30. (Canceled)

Claim 31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing apolipoprotein-B levels in the vascular system without reducing LDL-cholesterol levels in an individual in need thereof comprising;

administering azithromycin ~~an anti-microbial agent~~ and asprin ~~metal-chelator~~ to the ~~[[an]] individual in need thereof~~; and,

determining levels of apolipoprotein-B and LDL-cholesterol in the vascular system of said individual following said administration,

wherein the individual has hyperlipidemia.

33. (new) A method according to claim 12 comprising determining the level of apolipoprotein-B and LDL-cholesterol in the vascular system of said individual following said administration.

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34. (new) A method according to claim 12 comprising determining the reduction in apolipoprotein-B levels and the lack of reduction in LDL-cholesterol levels in the vascular system of said individual, following said administration.